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March 8 - March 14, 2002



VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

# Community Responses to Mineta-Bashing Article

*Compiled by AsianWeek Staff*

On Feb. 28, an op-ed piece entitled "Mineta's Bataan Death March" by conservative columnist Ann Coulter appeared on websites worldnetdaily.com and jewishworldreview.com. The 800-word column roasts Mineta in his role as Secretary of Transportation, blaming him for the Sept. 11 attacks and especially picking on his stance to avoid racial profiling in airport security. Citing both his Japanese American heritage and his political party, Coulter's words have incited a barrage of angry words from the Asian Pacific American community.

## From the Japanese American Citizens League:

Freedom of the press is an American constitutional right that walks hand-in-hand with a responsibility for the press to know what they publish and to do so without reckless disregard for the truth. It is therefore all the more surprising that numerous online presences — including the Universal Press Syndicate — published the hateful column by Ann Coulter which the Japanese American Citizens League believes amounts to a vile, factually inaccurate, personal and racist attack upon U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta.

No American organization can stand silent while publications promote and distribute an author who seems to insinuate that a mob attack on the secretary would be cause for celebration; trivializes the horrors suffered by American servicemen by

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equating increased security measures and longer lines at airports with the Bataan Death March; belittles the experience of Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II; seems to lay blame on the Department of Transportation for the terrorism of Sept. 11; or who would defame the president of the United States by suggesting that any president would nominate and the Senate confirm someone who, in her words, “wants America to suffer.”

Therefore, the Japanese American Citizens League, the nation’s oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization, condemns Coulter’s column ... as irresponsible hate-mongering at its worst and calls for all media outlets which carry her column to drop it immediately.

From member of Congress Mike Honda:

This shallow, inaccurate, racially motivated attack recalls quite clearly that it is Coulter who is “burning” with hatred for America — at least for the America that includes people who do not look like her. It must not be allowed to stand.

Coulter, in blaming Mineta solely for the tragic events of Sept. 11, displays a willful ignorance as to how our national security network ... failed to function properly leading up to that fateful day. More troubling is Coulter’s belief that Mineta’s status as a racial minority, not his four decades of service to San Jose and the nation as mayor, congressman and Transportation secretary, was the reason he was chosen by President Bush as Transportation secretary.

Perhaps the most distasteful aspect of Coulter’s attack on Mineta is her misguided analogy that Mineta is “subjecting all of America to the Bataan Death March” by refusing to implement racial profiling. I have had the privilege of working with many American POWs who survived the Death March, slavery and incarceration under unspeakable conditions ... I urge Ms. Coulter to sit down with those American heroes to discuss the atrocities that they endured to rid the world of a regime that had their own highly developed ideas on racial profiling. I would similarly urge Ms. Coulter to meet with the family of Sikh American Balbir Singh Sodhi of Arizona, an innocent man who was murdered in broad daylight in front of his store because the beard and turban he wore as articles of his faith fit “the profile.”

Scapegoating people based solely upon their race or appearance has long been a convenient vehicle used by small-minded people to blame our nation’s problems on a group of people who do not look like “us.” Every era has its voices of divisiveness and hate — in my childhood it was the racist journalists who spurred on the

tragedy of internment ... and when I was a young man it was those that pointed their fingers at the leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. I would like to thank Ann Coulter for standing up to show all of us that it is far easier to sit on the sidelines and criticize than fight the tough battles, and that we still have a long way to go.

From Asian Pacific American community activist Sonny Le's response:

It is time for us to stand up for ourselves and each other. We have to show our anger and direct our outrage at the offending target(s) swiftly and decisively. No time for subcommittee or ad hoc committee meeting and agenda items. Time is of the essence.

Ann Coulter, an ultra-conservative syndicated columnist and talk-show pundit, posted this scathing column against the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Norman Mineta, in the guise of an anti-Democratic rant. It's insulting, racist and downright mean-spirited.

We cannot allow her to get away with it. Her ranting shows she is ignorant of history and has no regards for Asian Americans as a group of people. Furthermore, using the Bataan Death March in this context is unacceptable, un-American and unforgivable!

If the South Koreans could shut down the International Skating Union's website with 16,000 e-mails over something as "silly" as the Winter Olympics, we should be able to do something just as good, or close, if not better. Let's show our collective power! Here are a few places for us to direct our energy at:

**Ann Coulter**

Townhall.com (a conservative news website)  
214 Massachusetts Ave., NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
Phone: 202-608-6099  
E-mail: [info@townhall.com](mailto:info@townhall.com) or [webmaster@uexpress.com](mailto:webmaster@uexpress.com)

**Coulter's publisher and owner of the Conservative Chronicle**

Hampton Publishing Co.  
Second Street, NW  
P.O. Box 317  
Hampton, Iowa 50441  
Phone: 800-888-3039  
E-mail: [conserve@rconnect.com](mailto:conserve@rconnect.com)

**WorldNetDaily.com Inc.**

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